

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123988

44

ORIGIN EUR-12

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INTERIOR(FWS) RSKOOG

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R 282056Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 123988

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT: ENERGY-ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS: PERMAFROST  
PIPELINES

REF: A) MOSCOW 1430 B) STATE 70087 C) STATE 106570  
D) MOSCOW 6804

1. DEPT UNCERTAIN RE STATUS OF ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FROM SCST  
THAT MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION OF PETROLEUM AND GAS  
ENTERPRISES ENGAGE IN RECIPROCAL ARCTIC PIPELINE EXCHANGE  
IN LIGHT OF REF D. IT HAD BEEN DEPT'S HOPE THAT THIS  
PROPOSAL COULD BE ACCOMMODATED BY PARTICIPATION OF  
CONSTRUCTION EXPERTS FROM THAT MINISTRY WITHIN A SINGLE  
VISIT UNDER THE COMBINED AEGIS OF BOTH THE ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS. WHEN WE SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED  
A WILLINGNESS TO GO AHEAD WITH SEPARATE ARCTIC PIPELINE  
VISITS UNDER BOTH AGREEMENTS WE DID SO BECAUSE WE FELT  
SOVIET DIFFICULTIES OF COORDINATING A SINGLE COMBINED  
EXCHANGE OF VISITS MIGHT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO  
SEND A DELEGATION FOR A JUNE VISIT TO ALASKA AND WE  
PREFERRED NOT TO DELAY THE SOVDEL VISIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER,  
OUR NEXT FEASIBLE TIME PERIOD.

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PAGE 02 STATE 123988

2. IN LIGHT OF KUVSHINNIKOV'S STATEMENT THAT SOVIET EXPERTS UNDER PROJECT V-2.1 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT COULD

NOT POSSIBLY TRAVEL TO THE US BEFORE THE END OF JUNE- A POSTPONEMENT OF THAT VISIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER IS NOW UNAVOIDABLE FOR THE REASONS STATED IN REFTEL C. IN OPENING THE POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATE PIPELINE VISITS UNDER BOTH THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY AGREEMENTS IT WAS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION OF PETROLEUM AND GAS ENTERPRISES WOULD PARTICIPATE.

3. HOWEVER KUVSHINNIKOV APPEARS TO BE SPEAKING ONLY FOR HYDROMET AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT IN REF D. WE DOUBT THAT AGREEMENT TO VISIT HE SUGGESTS UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT WOULD ANSWER THE SCST'S PROPOSAL. WE ARE ALSO UNCLEAR WHETHER MIN GAS OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT THAT SOVDEL GAS DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN GAS EXTRACTION IN PERMAFROST AREAS MEANS LACK OF SOVIET INTEREST IN A SEPARATE PERMAFROST/PIPELINE EXCHANGE UNDER THE ENERGY AGREEMENT. WE WONDER WHETHER THE STATEMENTS OF EITHER OF THESE TWO SOVIETS REFLECT THE SCST'S POSITION IN RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSALS IN REFS B AND C.

4. BEFORE ACTING ON RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 6 OF REF D., DEPARTMENT REQUESTS CLARIFICATION OF EFFECT OF ITS ADOPTION ON STATUS OF ORIGINAL SCST PROPOSAL IN REF A. IF FURTHER EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS INCLUDING SCST ARE NECESSARY TO CLARIFY THIS, EMBASSY CAN INFORM SOVIETS, THAT OUR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO LIMIT DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, AND KEEP DOWN OUR MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL COSTS. THIS CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION, SINCE THERE ARE FEW US EXPERTS WHO COULD ORGANIZE COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXCHANGE TOPIC. OUR GOAL IS TO ACCOMMODATE THE ORIGINAL SCST PROPOSAL (ASSUMING WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON THE ITINERARIES AND TIMING OF VISITS) WITH AS LITTLE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AS POSSIBLE AND WE HAVE NOT RULED OUT OUR PREFERRED PROPOSAL OF A COMBINED EXCHANGE UNDER BOTH AGREEMENTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 123988

5. HOWEVER IF THIS PROVES IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE OF COORDINATION PROBLEMS ON THE SOVIET SIDE WE WOULD WELCOME AND EXPECT MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION OF PETROLEUM AND GAS ENTERPRISES PARTICIPATION UNDER EITHER THE ENERGY OR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS. IF THE SOVIETS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN AN EARLY ARCTIC PIPELINE EXCHANGE UNDER THE ENERGY AGREEMENT OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO ACCOMMODATE

THE SOVIET PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION EXPERTS INTEREST AND THE SCST PROPOSAL WITHIN PROJECT V-2.L OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT.

6. IN EVENT THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT SCST MIGHT HAVE IN MIND AD HOC EXCHANGE UNDER SECTION III OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT, THE EMBASSY CAN INFORM THE SCST THAT WE VIEW USE OF THAT SECTION AS DESIRABLE ONLY WHERE THE SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE FALLS OUTSIDE THE TOPICS COVERED IN THE SPECIALIZED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS. THEREFORE IN THIS CASE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT WOULD BE EITHER DESIRABLE OR PRACTICAL TO MOUNT AD HOC EXCHANGE.

7. WE DEFER MAKING FINAL DECISION AND WILL HOLD OFF RESPONDING TO KUVSHINNIKOV AND PROPOSING NEW DATES FOR ARCTIC PIPELINE VISIT UNDER PROJECT V-2.1 OF ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT (ALTHOUGH SEPT. 5-21 LOOK LIKE THE BEST DATES FOR SOVDEL VISIT) UNTIL RECEIPT OF RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN THIS CABLE. INGERSOLL

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